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VIRGINIA 2d.

3/16/02

I was delighted to receive your preliminary draft of the Virginia Coinage matter. I realize you have done a lot of thinking about how to improve the subject. I have some preliminary suggestions which you can use or not use. They are not criticisms, only an attempt to create more simplification and clarity. I am trying to avoid checking variety detail as my sight is not as accurate as it was and I am relying on you and your team to do that.

In the forward, line 2, use "neglected" not "ignored".

You must be more accurate in citing the citations of my prior work.

In the FOREWORD PP 2 L. 3, the word "question" is too negative. I suggest using "wonder". Revised by putting "die variety" after wrote and eliminate "by the die variety".

Do not use W/O P any more for several reasons. Capital letters are used for the reverse varieties so use lower case letters for this type of abbreviation. Simplify the abbreviation to w/p for "with period" and n/p for no period. Do this everywhere.

Eliminate all references to machinists' rule. There are excellent plastic calipers available such as bymans which measures to .001 inches and is of very modest cost.

The measurements can be improved by using decimals instead of fractions of an inch. Perhaps 0.75, 0.85, 1.05, etc.

Explain that the word "period" is used instead of the former numismatic term "stop".

On the first page of the variety listing the A in "After" should be lower case. Obverse 15 heading W/L P. This is an unnecessary abbreviation as you describe it above and it confuses the other abbreviations.

On sheet with obverse 20 the P is another unnecessary abbreviation.

First page of reverses - change the word "letter" to "variety". -

Capitalize Obverse or say "Combined with Obverse"

On the Checklist of Die Varieties the abbreviation W/O P 6 Rarity is confusing. Use n/p (space) 6s (big space) Rarity. The small s is for strings.

Put a large hyphen between all die combinations such as 1-A as being adjacent may be confusing.

Use "Die Combinations of Virginia Halfpence" on last page, not Typetable.

I hope to get to my file soon to see what new matter I have accumulated, but did not want to delay this response. Please send me a revision adding whatever others suggest. Keep at it and strive for perfection and clarity.

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